

Bristol's Local Access Partnership

Where

Our place is the City of Bristol. It's the centre of our enterprise ecosystem and the scope of our policy and practical influence.

What

Our Local Access programme will resource development support and investment for enterprises working with disadvantaged communities to make the ecosystem more equitable.

Why

Because our social economy is currently ambitious and full of energy but fragmented and lacking diversity.

How

We'll challenge enterprises to see potential opportunities beyond what they're already delivering and develop Enterprise Associates within local organisations to build capacity from the inside-out.

Who

Our Partnership is led by frontline enterprises supported by a diversity of infrastructure organisations and city leaders already committed to a place-based approach.

When

We'll start investing £2m grant blend immediately using Bristol City Funds' existing structures and use £1.6m develop grant to build long-term capacity and coordination through place-shaping over ten years.

We are building a social economy that is

equitable

and

inclusive

Our vision is of a city that is fair, healthy and sustainable. A city of hope and aspiration where everyone can share in its success.

Yet today Bristol is a tale of two cities. It is home to some of the most affluent and most deprived communities in the country. Life expectancy varies by ten years between the most divided neighbourhoods, with people experiencing often multiple and interlocking inequalities.

Our approach is to develop enterprises led by these communities using local assets and strengths to create social, environment and economic impact that directly tackles social, environmental or economic disadvantage. Because community-led change is far-reaching and sustainable.

And because citizens, leaders and businesses working together to make an inclusive social economy makes for an equitable city.



We are working to make Bristol's overall economy

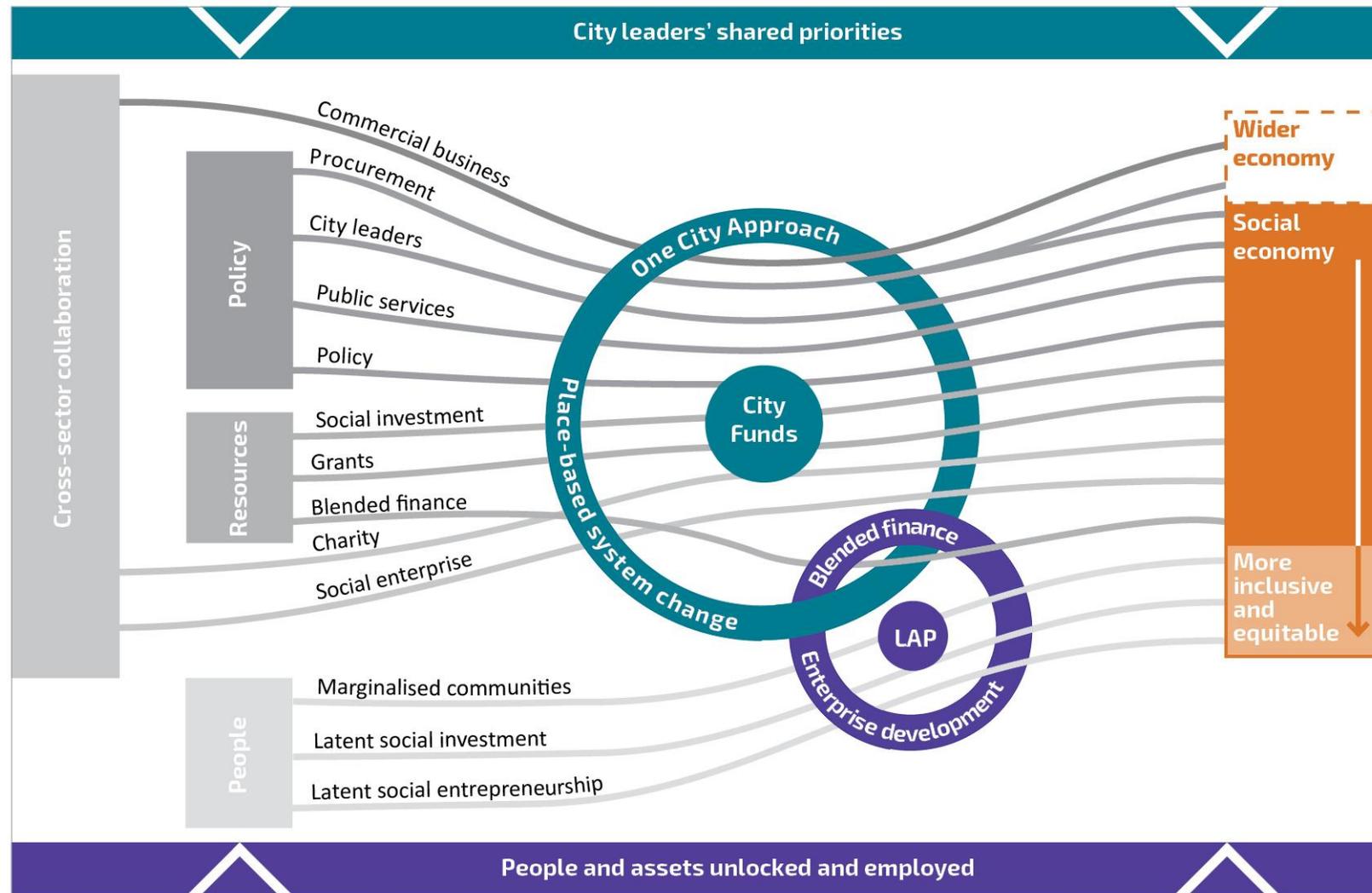
not bigger but better

We're not aiming to increase the size of the city's economy by pursuing unsustainable growth for growth's sake - because equity must be achieved within environmental limits. Instead we're working to:

- direct more social investment to enterprises working with disadvantaged communities;
- increase the scale and reach of these social enterprises in trading with consumers, businesses and institutions;
- increase their quality and collective impact;
- increase the social economy's market share through more institutions contracting with social enterprises;
- lead by example and encourage Bristol's wider business sector to nurture social as well as financial returns.



Our vision entails unlocking
assets
 and enabling disadvantaged
people
 to work towards shared priorities



Our One City Approach is driving collaboration across sectors towards Bristol's shared priorities, supported by widespread political and business commitment previously missing. The social economy is a crucial means to those ends but is currently underrepresented in the delivery of the One City Plan. Bristol City Funds provides a readymade, place-based investment mechanism to coordinate policy and resources. Our Local Access Partnership offers the means to connect those resources with communities they don't normally reach. By demonstrating the value of the social economy, we will drive further policy alignment and place-shaping to reinforce equity and inclusion.

Our partnership is a

broad church

with a

clear focus

We have drawn from Bristol's diverse and vibrant social economy to develop a partnership that is underpinned by infrastructure organisations and led from the frontline. The Partnership is simple, flexible and connects together a range of existing alliances rather than creating new bureaucratic structures.

It is rooted in an understanding of the social, economic and environmental inequalities that disadvantaged communities in Bristol experience, and collective learning from the historical ups and downs of our social economy. It's also looking squarely to the future with new ideas and shared values: the strength of engagement and endorsement demonstrated so far – from the civic, business, academic and frontline enterprise sectors - means that our focus is now on how to make our partnership work most effectively, rather than deciding whether working in this way is the right approach.



We will provide the support enterprises need on their

journey

to deliver impact at

scale

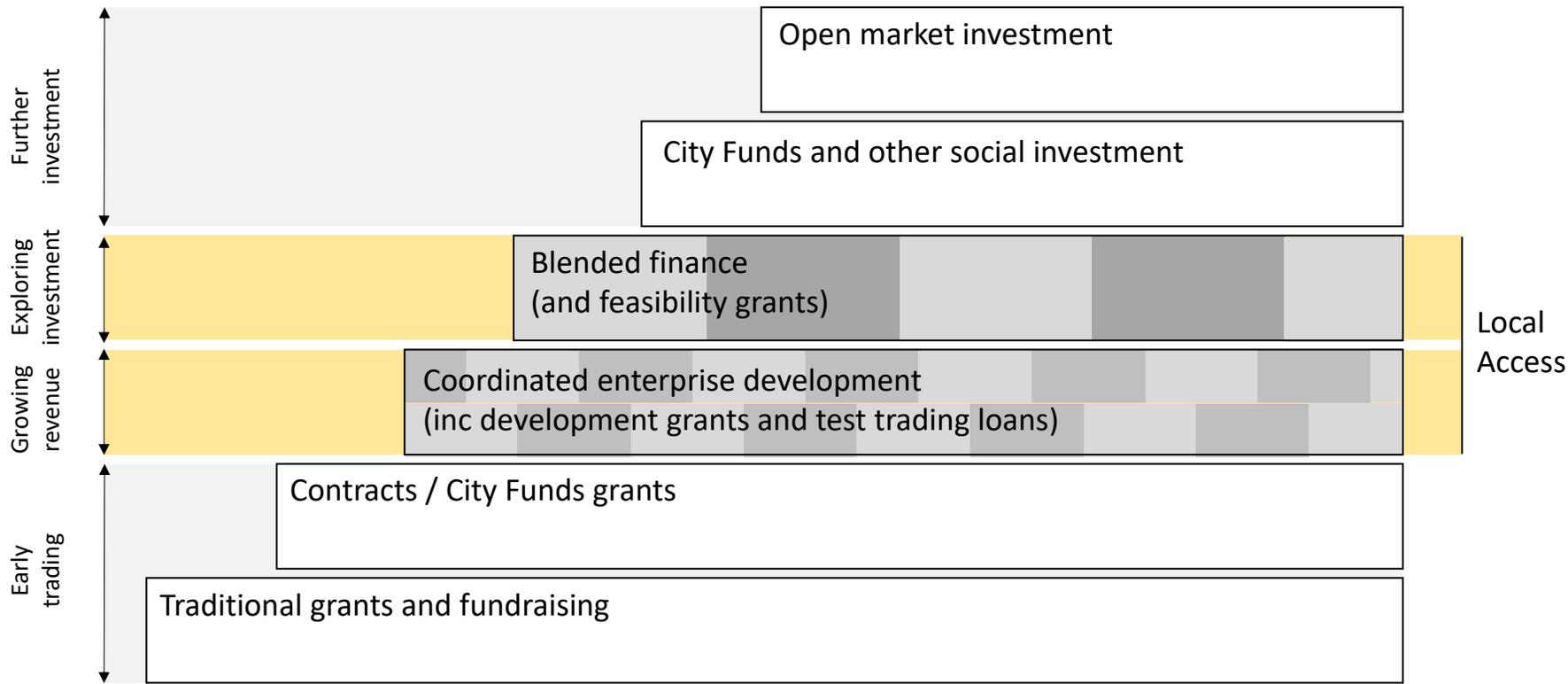
Bristol is currently in a state of transition in its journey towards a more inclusive social economy. Financial capital is available but remains inaccessible for too many local enterprises.

A range of development support is building stronger enterprises but this support is fragmented, typically short-term and lacks coordination.

Two pieces missing from this jigsaw are:

1. grant blend to make City Funds accessible to enterprises led by disadvantaged communities;
2. the provision of sustainable local development support to help enterprises scale their impact.

Our Local Access Partnership will provide these missing pieces.



We are developing stronger social enterprises by

sharing

expertise and experience and changing the

culture

from “asking for help” to “resourcing a vision”

We know what kind of development support builds thriving enterprises.

We need better understanding of packaging support to enterprises at different stages of development, and the resources to deliver.

So we will use our experience to test different types of development support collaboratively and find what works locally.

We will support the development of staff from local organisations to form a network of Enterprise Associates that provide professional development and peer mentoring to colleagues in other organisations, shifting the culture of the social economy one leader at a time.



Our investments are accessible and packaged with

support

to help enterprises realise their intended

impact

Local enterprises are seeking social investment because it enables them to deliver projects and services that aren't possible with other resources: a new building, a new contract, a new partnership.

This kind of step change often requires a number of smaller steps to achieve, and support along the way.

We'll use grant blend to make investment more accessible and scalable to enterprises that have previously rejected it as an option, and support it with technical and development expertise as required.

Bristol's social economy will then expand sustainably and equitably.



In return for

£2m blend

and

£1.6m revenue

we will make investment and enterprise support accessible to

394

social enterprises working for inclusion and equity, 44% of whom may not have secured support or investment otherwise

By enabling these additional social enterprises to sustain and scale their social, economic and environmental impact, our Local Access Partnership will strengthen Bristol's social economy and help to make the city a more fair, healthy and sustainable place to live.

